

On the Spur of the Moment.

By Roy K. Moulton.

Never again.
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Of gentle fall
In language that is rich;
They hang a bluff
And sell the stuff
To magazines and such.
They rave and shout
And rhyme about
The fragrance of the air
And of the joy
Without alloy
That lingers everywhere.
But when it snows
And rains and blows
And does a dozen stunts,
With hail and sleet
And lightning sheet,
And does 'em all at once;
When Nature drops
And deftly flops
A backhand somersault,
A thing right now,
You will allow,
It's time to call a halt.
My lyre is still
Twang for you as of yore;
Oh, autumn, you
Can sure go to—
I'll boost your game no more.

How to Become Famous.
We have a letter from a young man who is yearning to become famous, having tired of the humdrum of a bucolic existence. We are asked to put him on the road to fame. It is not so very difficult. If the young man will just follow any one of the suggestions appended hereto he will have his full name in large letters on the first page of every newspaper in the country.

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The voters voted several measures because they were determined to put a stop to the abuse of the initiative and referendum. An "official commission" proposition was defeated because it was loaded with many so-called schemes and offices. The Oregonian says: "The people are impatient of the gross abuse and overuse of the initiative and the referendum" and it advises the voters: "When in doubt, vote no." Before another election it advised: "When not in doubt, vote no, unless there is a clear call to vote yes."

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Against mothers' pensions it is argued that they would unduly stimulate the growth of population by offering a premium on children; that they would depress wages by adding to the family income; that they would encourage undesired foreign immigration; that they would weaken the moral stamina of the people by "indiscriminate" State aid and break down the sense of family responsibility, that behind the demand for such pensions is the wrong idea that the State owes every one a living; that the administrative difficulties involved in the scheme render it wholly impracticable.

"STARVE THE FLY."
The slogan "Swat the fly" must be changed.
"Starve the fly" suggested the fly-fighting committee of the American Civic Association at its eighth annual convention in Baltimore.
The campaign against the fly, popularized in the United States four years ago, has become worldwide.
While the educational value of fly-killing campaigns is not to be underestimated, the committee declares that greater results can be obtained by cleaning stables and back yards and garbage dumps and all like places that breed flies in a community and supply them with infection.
"Starve the fly" is the right slogan. It is easier to clean one stable, where several billion flies might be bred, than to wait until the season's hatch is grown and then destroy them one by one.

A SANER CHRISTMAS ADVOCATED.
The old custom of making Christmas a season for extravagance and perils is changing into a better method. The tendency to make it one of genuine pleasure is increasing.
The large number of fatalities due to the use of dangerous toys and fireworks is being reduced each year because of reformed ideas, for the people see the folly of endangering their lives in the violent celebration of the occasion.
Reform in the extravagance and useless expenditure of money at Christmas is also progressing.
The custom of making presents has become a burden to many who cannot afford it. This fact has led certain philanthropic women to begin a movement to abolish the custom among those who are financially unable to observe it.
Mrs. August Belmont and Miss Anne Morgan have organized "The Society for the Prevention of Useless Giving," which they are asking working girls to join.
Mrs. Belmont justifies her efforts to correct the evils of useless giving at Christmas by saying that it is folly for a girl earning \$5 a week to spend money on Christmas gifts.
Many people feel that to be just to themselves rather than to be generous to others, they ought not to give presents. They know that they cannot afford the expense, but they feel that they must give as well as receive.
A holiday season should not be marred by so great and so senseless a burden. Enforced giving often results in more harm than pleasure. The capacity for giving is overtaxed.
If we could give in proportion to our capacity, so that there would be no distressing balancing of accounts, the art of giving would be encouraged, and the happiest season of all the year left unmarred.

where it can be seen all the way across the playhouse, never evading the attention of the occupants of boxes, parquet and galleries.
It is intended to blazon forth the fact that the garment was secured only on approval, just as plainly as if it were lettered: "Obtained from so-and-so and not paid for." The tag cannot be removed without mutilation, which makes the removal self-evident.
This scheme should destroy a common abuse. It might be extended to include rugs, lamps, draperies, glassware, etc., which are now used frequently at elaborate receptions by people of easy conscience, only to be returned the next day as unsatisfactory in every way.

WAR'S TOLL.
Definite statistics concerning the Balkan war are not obtainable, but figures collected from reliable dispatches indicate that no less than 23,000 men have already been killed in battle. Thirty-three thousand killed! Not a great figure for a war total, but with what horror the world would contemplate any other disaster that wrought such a result! Earthquake, volcanic eruption, holocaust, shipwreck—such catastrophes would bring less havoc and cause less human suffering—but civilization would stand appalled.
The total does not take into account the victims of cholera, it does not consider the women and children slain, it does not cover the famine and disease that will follow in the wake of the armies. They are but incidents of war and not important factors in estimates.

Almost 200,000 have been killed and wounded in actual battle in this war. The estimate is conservative. Turkey has lost 120,000 men, Bulgaria 50,000, Serbia 21,000, Montenegro 6,000 and Greece 2,000. Of the wounded, many will die, while others will be public charges. Such is the record of a European war in the twentieth century, and the end is not yet.
Have these figures a lesson? Should not utilitarians join humanitarians in demanding that war itself shall die? What is war worth compared to the tremendous toll it exacts?

DIVIDING THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION.
California is soon to try an innovation in government that will be watched with much interest by other States. The coming session of the legislature in that State is to be "bifurcated"—that is, it will be divided, the first thirty days to be devoted to the introduction of bills, and the latter part of the session to their discussion and disposition. Between the two parts of the session there is to be a thirty-day recess. The first part is limited to thirty days, but the latter may be as long as is desired.
This innovation is the result of a constitutional amendment adopted last year. No other State has tried the plan, although the principle will be generally adopted if it proves practical. The reason of the reform is that legislators ought to ascertain the will of their constituents as to proposed laws.

The Kansas papers are terribly wrought up over a question of etiquette, stated as follows: "Lady having her teeth fixed a year ago this summer was married this year. Can the dentist sue the husband? Whom can he hold for the bill?" The Topeka Capital, trying to settle the question, says: "It is the custom, we believe, for the father to pay for the bride's dentistry. In Topeka the dentist's bill is considered part of the trousseau."

Fear the job-seekers bearing petitions!
Pauline Wayne, the White House cow, will give place March 4 to Nona of Avon, a \$5,000 beauty, the gift to President-elect Wilson of William Gallo, of Waterloo, Iowa. Quite a drop for Pauline to go from the White House lawn to some old pasture near Cincinnati.

Entirely too much spleenitude characterized the action of the Common Council in the Richmond and Henrico franchise grant.
Ten thousand suffragettes will be in the inaugural parade. If they all wear hobble skirts, the President-elect will freeze to death before they pass him.

Some famous teeth beamed and famous eyes smiled through famous glasses Saturday when the news came that Harvard had licked Yale easily on the football. If not on the presidential field.

Vice-President-elect Tom Marshall proves that he is a Democrat by shining his shoes himself.
Mrs. Hetty Green attributes much of her health and wealth to her onion diet.
Do your Christmas shopping now.
The best thing that Bailey, of Texas, ever did for his country was to resign.
When a girl is very pretty there is always some female friend who sighs and observes, my dear, that it is certainly too bad that she doesn't know how to wear her clothes.
Why can't the Outlook send the Colonel to cover the Balkan war?
Thursday ends the turkey trot.
A Richmond teacher had the letters c-a-t on the blackboard the other day, and was trying to teach a small girl to pronounce. "Think," the teacher said, "what is it that has some whiskers and comes up on the porch late at night and begs to come up into the house?" The little girl brightened: "She says."

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In language that is rich;
They hang a bluff
And sell the stuff
To magazines and such.
They rave and shout
And rhyme about
The fragrance of the air
And of the joy
Without alloy
That lingers everywhere.
But when it snows
And rains and blows
And does a dozen stunts,
With hail and sleet
And lightning sheet,
And does 'em all at once;
When Nature drops
And deftly flops
A backhand somersault,
A thing right now,
You will allow,
It's time to call a halt.
My lyre is still
Twang for you as of yore;
Oh, autumn, you
Can sure go to—
I'll boost your game no more.

How to Become Famous.
We have a letter from a young man who is yearning to become famous, having tired of the humdrum of a bucolic existence. We are asked to put him on the road to fame. It is not so very difficult. If the young man will just follow any one of the suggestions appended hereto he will have his full name in large letters on the first page of every newspaper in the country.

Solve the problem of perpetual motion.
Invent a time clock which every husband must punch when he arrives home late at night.
Run for President of this country and be elected.
Write out \$100,000 to a university.
Fly across the Pacific Ocean in an aeroplane.
Invent a collar button that will not roll under the bureau.
Get up a list of excuses for night prowling husbands which will stand the suffrage test.
Write a long looked for great American novel.
Invent a pearl shirt stud that can be found when wanted.

According to Uncle Abner.
There is a terrible difference between a fool and a dumb fool. The former finds it out some time, but the latter never does.
When a feller has got eight or nine children he somehow loses taste for passionate socks and neckties.
A feller with an expressive countenance has got no business in a poker game.
It beats all what a lot of bum cooking a feller can eat when he is in love.
No man should let his whiskers grow so long that they hang in the soup.
There are a few fellers in every town who wear their straw hats until Christmas. They are always the ones who are not in favor of letting the new railroad come in and think that lantern light is good enough on the street after 8 o'clock.
A State law provides for a front and rear light on all vehicles. If a feller is pushing a baby car he will have to hang a light on his coat tail.
One of the fellers who isn't contented to sit still and let trouble overtake him, but feels as though he must run down the road and meet it, is the feller who writes love letters to another feller's wife.
There are a lot of matinee idols and vaudeville strong men in this country who couldn't make \$10 a month on the street.
Never judge a man's knowledge by the size of his eyeglasses.
A man should never go to the theatre with his wig on crosswise. Somebody in the balcony is sure to notice that the wig is on crosswise and west instead of north and south.
About the only place an old-fashioned feller can get a quill toothpick nowadays is on a dining car.
There never was a time in the history of this country when there wasn't something the matter with the tariff.

Sure Signs.
If you forget to hand the waiter a little something it is a sure sign that you are going to have a little soup down the back of your neck the next time you call.
If you see a man pawing around with his foot like a boss, trying to find something to put it on, it is a sign that he often dabbles in front of the polished mahogany.
If your wife begins early in the morning to pay you compliments and forgets to hand you one for getting home late at night, it is a sign that she is going to have a new hat or a scalpin coat.
If you see a particular friend of yours sailing along your direction in a new automobile, it is a sure sign that he is not going to ask you to jump in and have a ride.

THE REFERENDUM IN OREGON.
According to the Portland Oregonian, the result of several elections held there lately—among them a special charter and bond election in Portland—tends to prove that the citizens no longer will tolerate the overloading of the ballot with promiscuous measures, and that the taxpayers mean to call a halt on public expenditure that are not absolutely essential to the development of the city.
The voters voted several measures because they were determined to put a stop to the abuse of the initiative and referendum. An "official commission" proposition was defeated because it was loaded with many so-called schemes and offices. The Oregonian says: "The people are impatient of the gross abuse and overuse of the initiative and the referendum" and it advises the voters: "When in doubt, vote no." Before another election it advised: "When not in doubt, vote no, unless there is a clear call to vote yes."

THE PEOPLE OF OREGON lately had to vote on forty-two measures, two-thirds of which they defeated. The character of those adopted indicates that direct legislation is often a lottery. In the opinion of the Washington Herald, but it is also found that the great body of the people in Oregon discern fundamental and elementary issues and vote intelligently upon them. There is a firm resolve not to create new offices and not to add to the State's expenditures.
The people of Oregon resent the misuse of the initiative and the referendum, holding that direct legislation should be reserved for emergencies. Two years ago Oregon was the most radical State in the nation, but now it is turning toward conservatism.

UNPAID FOR.
A vast reduction in the number of well-dressed women at the theatre and the opera in New York will result if a new device lately put upon the market in Manhattan comes into general use. It consists of a ticket to be fastened on a gown in a conspicuous place.

ing the children of widows cared for at home; that home influences are ever to be preferred for the children's sake when it is possible for the mother to have them at home; that if mothers' pensions can be paid through the courts and not through the associated charities, there would be little or no waste of money.
Against mothers' pensions it is argued that they would unduly stimulate the growth of population by offering a premium on children; that they would depress wages by adding to the family income; that they would encourage undesired foreign immigration; that they would weaken the moral stamina of the people by "indiscriminate" State aid and break down the sense of family responsibility, that behind the demand for such pensions is the wrong idea that the State owes every one a living; that the administrative difficulties involved in the scheme render it wholly impracticable.

On the Spur of the Moment.

By Roy K. Moulton.

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